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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4855
INFO RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6865
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 8660
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3645
RHMCSUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS AIT TAIPEI 000816

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STATE FOR EAP/TC AND EB/TRA/OTP
SINGAPORE AND TOKYO FOR FAA
BANGKOK FOR TSA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: Taiwan Plans Expansion of Taichung Airport

¶1. The Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) announced plans April 7 to expand Taichung's Cing Cyuan Gang (CCK) Airport. The expansion cost is projected to be NT\$1.48 billion (US\$44.8 million). After the expansion, the facility will be able to handle two 737-800 passenger jets at the same time. Construction is scheduled to be completed in December 2009.

¶2. At the ceremony where CAA Director General Billy Chang announced the expansion, President Chen Shui-bian called on CAA to further expand the role of CCK Airport. In addition to charter flights to Southeast Asian destination planned by CAA, Chen suggested the airport should also handle cross-Straits charter flights and more cargo services.

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